

FISCAL NOTE

HB 1014 - SB 1392

April 1, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement the *Beef Genetic Improvement Program* to allow Tennessee farmers, specifically those with small cow-calf operations, 25 to 50 head, access to genetically superior breeding stock that such farmers would not otherwise be able to utilize due to financial limitations. The program would include the following:
 - A financial component consisting of a low-interest loan program to enable Tennessee producers to purchase or lease genetically superior herd sires and bred or open females for their cattle herds.
 - An educational component whereby the Department of Agriculture shall form a partnership with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Extension Service. The Institute of Agriculture Extension Service shall develop an educational program relative to the genetic improvement of commercial cow-calf operations and provide assistance to producers who qualify for loans in selecting premium sires and females. Such program is to include information outlining the added benefits of marketing future genetically superior cattle through graded sales venues and preconditioned sales. The livestock graders of the Department of Agriculture shall provide technical support for the educational program.
2. Authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$1,000,000 First Year
\$46,000 Recurring**

Estimate assumes the establishment of a loan pool to serve approximately 125 producers per year and one position and related expenses in the Department of Agriculture.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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